tified seeds to the cotton growers, stepping up of Intenesive Cotton Development Programme identification of important districts in the major cotton producing States for concentration of efforts by preparation of special Cotton Production Programme, improvement in plant surveillance measures, improvement in irrigation facilities etc.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Provident Fund

4255. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
DR. C. SILVERA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on provident fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the tax benefits available to General Provident Fund subscribers, the current interest rate of 12% per annum is considered reasonable.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Government Employees

4256. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instalments of Dearness Allowance given to the Central Government employees whose basic pay exceeds Rs. 3500 are deposited in their provident fund account;

(b) whether in view of exorbitant increase in prices the Government propose to give the instalments of Dearness Allowance in cash to the above category of employees also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Under the existing orders, the instalments of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-90 onwards are not payable in cash to the Central Government employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500 p. m. but instead are credited to their respective Provident Fund Accounts.

(b) and (c) The additional instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-91 is payable with the salary of September, 1991. The mode of payment will be decided when the instalment becomes payable.

[English]

Depreciation on Vehicles and Machinery

4257. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vehicles were purchased during the first three months of 1991 by the business community in order to claim depreciation for the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing full depreciation on such vehicles/ machinery etc. bought at the fag end of the financial year instead of allowing only the proportionate depreciation; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to